

**Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities  
Approved Minutes**

**April 12, 2010  
1252 Foster Avenue  
Hardison Building Auditorium  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

Members of the Council in Attendance

David Blier	Christine Lloyd-Burkes
Samuel Cole	Beulah C. Oldham
Janelle Glover	Sharmila Patel
Cynthia Higginbotham, Vice-Chair	Sebrena St. John
Mary Donnet Johnson	Shannon Taylor
Catherine Knowles	

Members of the Council Not in Attendance

Dawn Bradley	Cindy Storey
Paula Brownyard, Chair	Jim Topp
Pamela Burns	Tonya Watson
Fran Powers	Darlene Walden
Chip Fair	Winnie Forrester
Jeff Finney	Kyle Hauth

State Employees in Attendance

Bob Blair, TN Department of Education/Division of Special Education (TDE/DSE)  
Joseph Fisher, TDE/DSE  
Jessica Harbison, TDE/DSE  
Nan McKerley, TDE/DSE  
Michael R. Williams, TDE/DSE  
Bill Wilson, TDE/DSE  
Robert Winstead, TDE/DSE

Visitors in Attendance

Susan Dalton, TN Education Association (TEA)  
Diane D. Ianni, Lewis, King  
Lynise Parisien, Parent and Educational Advocate for The Arc  
Loria Richardson, The Arc of Tennessee

### **Welcome**

Paula Browyard, Chair, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. Cynthia Higginbotham stepped in to the meeting. She called the meeting to order by first welcoming everyone and then lead the Council members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

There were not enough Council Members present to form a quorum; therefore, no votes were taken this meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2009 Meeting**

No vote was taken for the minutes.

### **Report from the Chair**

Due to Paula's absence, there was nothing to report. There was some discussion regarding the recording of the meetings for the web. It was agreed that since there were not enough members present to vote, the meetings would continue to be recorded and the matter would be placed on the agenda for further discussion in October.

### **Public Input**

There was no one present to address the Council.

### **2008-2009 Annual Report**

Sebrena St. John volunteered to act as Chair for the Annual Report Subcommittee.

### **New Goals for 2010-2011**

The New Goals Subcommittee suggested extending the current goals for another school year and have the Council member sign up to review a certain goal's progress, usage and to make suggestions regarding that area of interest in the future.

### **Other New Business**

Joseph Fisher announced that the "Race To The Top" Award, which Tennessee received in the amount of 501 million dollars. Half of this money will go to local education agencies (LEAs) and the other half will be used by the TDE/DSE to increase BASE-TN and Special Education Institute funds. It is projected that these funds will help recruit and retain 3,023 special educators in Tennessee. The Governor's Office has started a task force to handle teacher evaluations, which will be conducted annually. The TDE/DSE has developed a tool and submitted it to this task force to assist with these evaluations. Susan Dalton added that the next Teacher Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2010 and will be held at TEA. The meeting is also open to the public.

Bill Wilson updated the Council about the State Board Agenda Items "F", "G" and "I" concerning matters of Special Education. State Board Item "F" will change "Mental Retardation" to "Intellectual Disability" within the Disability Eligibility Standards and Evaluation Procedures. Item "G" will change the language within the State Board of Education Rules and Regulations. Item "I" deals with IDEIA 2004 evaluations completed within 60 calendar days of a written request by the parent. Tennessee had a

rule in place which stated the LEA was allowed 40 school days; however, it was felt that the 60 calendar day rule, with 30 days to begin providing services, would be more appropriate and beneficial for students.

The Council set a tentative meeting schedule as follows:

- July 12, 2010 (Changed from July 19, 2010 due to scheduling conflicts.)
- October 11, 2010
- January 10, 2011
- April 11, 2011

The meeting was then adjourned.